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~~(54) Title: INCREASING PLASMA CALCITRIOL LEVELS~~

~~(59) Abstract~~

The invention relates to animal food and supplements used therein. The invention provides a method for preparing an animal food suitable for increasing immune competence and/or phytate degradation competence of said animal comprising supplementing or enriching said food with a substance capable of increasing plasma calcitriol levels. Use of such a method as provided by the invention is particularly useful for reducing or abolishing dietary antibiotic intake by a food animal. For example, broilers or fattening pigs, but also reproductive or egg laying animals, can be reared and kept under circumstances of high intrinsic immune competence, without having to resort to the excessive or forbidden dietary use of antibiotics or other "growth additives" that seems to be common place in traditional animal husbandry.

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